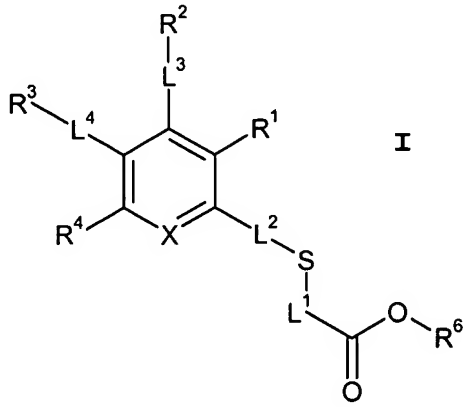
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application: **(AS ON AMENDED SHEET(S) ANNEXED TO IPRP)**

1. (currently amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula **I**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein

X is N or CH;

R^1 is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or -OR, -NHR, $-NR_2$ or –SR wherein R is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$;

R^2 is H, CF_3; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^3 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are

single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;

R^3 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^2 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;

R^4 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl;

R^6 is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-6} aryl and C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} aryl;

L^1 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene or $-L^5N(R^5)L^6-$, or C_{1-4} alkylene substituted by either C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{5-7} aryl, wherein L^5 and L^6 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene, and R^5 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and further wherein L^1 may be unsubstituted C_{1-4} alkylene when X is N;

L^2 is a single bond; or optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene or $-L^7C(=O)L^8-$, wherein L^7 and L^8 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and a single bond; and

L^3 and L^4 are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$ and $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond; ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in a method of therapy~~.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of H and cyano.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein R^6 is H or C_{1-7} alkyl.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L^1 is chosen from the group consisting of phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH_2-phenylene- and -CH_2C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L^2 is a single bond or –C(=O)CH_2-.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L^3 is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, –L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}- and –L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

7. (original) A compound according to claim 6 wherein L^3 is a single bond.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L^4 is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$ and $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 8 wherein L^4 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2N(OH)C(=O)-$, -phenylene-$CH_2N(OH)C(=O)-$, -phenylene-$NHN(OH)C(=O)-$ and $-CH_2C(=O)N(OH)-$.

10. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein X is CH.

11. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein two of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein R^1, R^2 and R^4 are all H.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of R^2 and R^3 is

optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R^3 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

16. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R^3 is optionally substituted phenyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl.

17. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R^3 is phenyl or cyclopentyl.

18. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein L^1 is phenylene or –CH(Ph)-.

19. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of L^3 and L^4 is a single bond.

20. (original) A compound according to claim 19 wherein L^3 is a single bond.

21. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 9~~ wherein X is N.

22. (original) A compound according to claim 21 wherein R^4 is selected from optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl and C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

23. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein R^1 is cyano or hydroxamic acid.

24. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl, CF_3 and, together with R^3, an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_6 ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached.

25. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl.

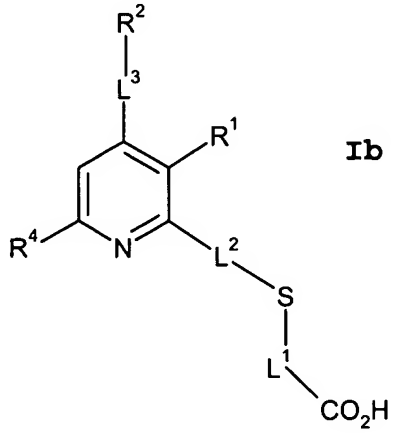
26. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from optionally substituted phenyl or thiophenyl.

27. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of thiophenyl, phenyl, *p*-chlorophenyl, *p*-methoxyphenyl, *o*-methoxyphenyl and *p*-fluorophenyl.

28. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 24 ~~to 26~~ wherein R^2 is a monosubstituted phenyl group with the substituent group being in the *para* position.

29. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 21 ~~to 28~~ wherein R^3 is H or, together with R^2, an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_6 ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached.

30. (original) A compound according to claim 29 wherein R^3 is H and L^4 is a single bond such that the compound is of formula **Ib**:

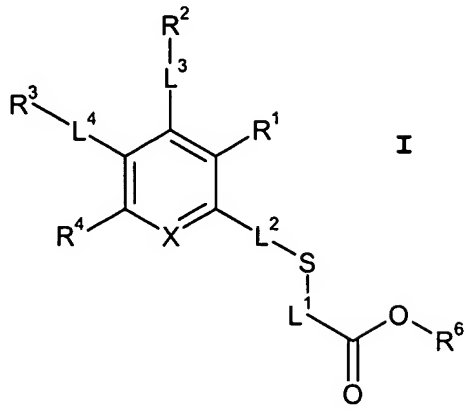


Ib

31. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 32. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (original) A compound of formula **I**:



I

or a salt, solvate or chemically protected form thereof wherein

X is N or CH;

R^1 is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or -OR, -NHR, $-NR_2$ or –SR wherein R is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$;

R^2 is H, CF_3; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^3 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;

R^3 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^2 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are

single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;

R^4 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl;

R^6 is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-6} aryl and C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} aryl;

L^1 is optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene or $-L^5N(R^5)L^6-$, wherein L^5 and L^6 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene, and R^5 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

L^2 is a single bond; or optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene or $-L^7C(=O)L^8-$, wherein L^7 and L^8 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and a single bond; and

L^3 and L^4 are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$ and $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond; and

wherein the compound contains at least one –C(=O)N(OH)- group.

35. 35. (original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least one of R^1, L^3 or L^4 comprises a –C(=O)N(OH)- group.

36. (original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L^4 comprises a –C(=O)N(OH)- group.

37. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 36~~ wherein L^4 is a L^9–C(=O)N(OH)- group.

38. (original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L^9 is selected from C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene.

39. (original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L^9 is methylene or phenylene.

40. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 39~~ wherein X is CH.

41. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 40~~ wherein at least one of R^1, R^2 and R^4 is H.

42. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 40~~ wherein at least two of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H.

43. 43. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 40~~ wherein all of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H.

44. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 43~~ wherein R^3 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl.

45. (original) A compound according to claim 44 wherein R^3 is phenyl.

46. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 45~~ wherein R^6 is H or C_{1-7} alkyl.

47. (original) A compound according to claim 46 wherein R^6 is H or C_{1-3} alkyl.

48. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 47~~ wherein L^1 is phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, $-CH_2$-phenylene- or $-CH_2C(=O)NH$-phenylene-.

49. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 48~~ wherein L^2 is a single bond or $-C(=O)CH_2$-.

50. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 49~~ wherein L^3 is a single bond.